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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/998,898	11/30/2001	Shawn P. Delany	21756-013300	4155
51206 7590 08/01/2008 TOWNSEND AND TOWNSEND AND CREW LLP TWO EMBARCADERO CENTER 8TH FLOOR SAN FRANCISCO, CA 94111-3834				
EXAMINER SALAD, ABDULLAHI ELMI				
ART UNIT 2157		PAPER NUMBER		
MAIL DATE 08/01/2008		DELIVERY MODE PAPER		

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

**Advisory Action
Before the Filing of an Appeal Brief**

Application No. 09/998,898	Applicant(s) DELANY ET AL.
Examiner Salad Abdullahi	Art Unit 2157

--The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

THE REPLY FILED 10 July 2008 FAILS TO PLACE THIS APPLICATION IN CONDITION FOR ALLOWANCE.

1. ☒ The reply was filed after a final rejection, but prior to or on the same day as filing a Notice of Appeal. To avoid abandonment of this application, applicant must timely file one of the following replies: (1) an amendment, affidavit, or other evidence, which places the application in condition for allowance; (2) a Notice of Appeal (with appeal fee) in compliance with 37 CFR 41.31; or (3) a Request for Continued Examination (RCE) in compliance with 37 CFR 1.114. The reply must be filed within one of the following time periods:

- a) ☐ The period for reply expires _____ months from the mailing date of the final rejection.
b) ☒ The period for reply expires on: (1) the mailing date of this Advisory Action, or (2) the date set forth in the final rejection, whichever is later. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the mailing date of the final rejection.
Examiner Note: If box 1 is checked, check either box (a) or (b). ONLY CHECK BOX (b) WHEN THE FIRST REPLY WAS FILED WITHIN TWO MONTHS OF THE FINAL REJECTION. See MPEP 706.07(f).

Extensions of time may be obtained under 37 CFR 1.136(a). The date on which the petition under 37 CFR 1.136(a) and the appropriate extension fee have been filed is the date for purposes of determining the period of extension and the corresponding amount of the fee. The appropriate extension fee under 37 CFR 1.17(a) is calculated from: (1) the expiration date of the shortened statutory period for reply originally set in the final Office action; or (2) as set forth in (b) above, if checked. Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of the final rejection, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

NOTICE OF APPEAL

2. ☐ The Notice of Appeal was filed on _____. A brief in compliance with 37 CFR 41.37 must be filed within two months of the date of filing the Notice of Appeal (37 CFR 41.37(a)), or any extension thereof (37 CFR 41.37(e)), to avoid dismissal of the appeal. Since a Notice of Appeal has been filed, any reply must be filed within the time period set forth in 37 CFR 41.37(a).

AMENDMENTS

3. ☐ The proposed amendment(s) filed after a final rejection, but prior to the date of filing a brief, will not be entered because
(a) ☐ They raise new issues that would require further consideration and/or search (see NOTE below);
(b) ☐ They raise the issue of new matter (see NOTE below);
(c) ☐ They are not deemed to place the application in better form for appeal by materially reducing or simplifying the issues for appeal; and/or
(d) ☐ They present additional claims without canceling a corresponding number of finally rejected claims.
NOTE: _____. (See 37 CFR 1.116 and 41.33(a)).

4. ☐ The amendments are not in compliance with 37 CFR 1.121. See attached Notice of Non-Compliant Amendment (PTOL-324).

5. ☐ Applicant's reply has overcome the following rejection(s): _____.

6. ☐ Newly proposed or amended claim(s) _____ would be allowable if submitted in a separate, timely filed amendment canceling the non-allowable claim(s).

7. ☒ For purposes of appeal, the proposed amendment(s): a) ☐ will not be entered, or b) ☒ will be entered and an explanation of how the new or amended claims would be rejected is provided below or appended.

The status of the claim(s) is (or will be) as follows:

Claim(s) allowed: _____.

Claim(s) objected to: _____.

Claim(s) rejected: 1, 3-5, 7-18, 20-24, 26-31, and 33-39.

Claim(s) withdrawn from consideration: _____.

AFFIDAVIT OR OTHER EVIDENCE

8. ☐ The affidavit or other evidence filed after a final action, but before or on the date of filing a Notice of Appeal will not be entered because applicant failed to provide a showing of good and sufficient reasons why the affidavit or other evidence is necessary and was not earlier presented. See 37 CFR 1.116(e).

9. ☐ The affidavit or other evidence filed after the date of filing a Notice of Appeal, but prior to the date of filing a brief, will not be entered because the affidavit or other evidence failed to overcome all rejections under appeal and/or appellant fails to provide a showing of good and sufficient reasons why it is necessary and was not earlier presented. See 37 CFR 41.33(d)(1).

10. ☐ The affidavit or other evidence is entered. An explanation of the status of the claims after entry is below or attached.

REQUEST FOR RECONSIDERATION/OTHER

11. ☒ The request for reconsideration has been considered but does NOT place the application in condition for allowance because:
See Continuation Sheet.

12. ☐ Note the attached Information *Disclosure Statement*(s). (PTO/SB/08) Paper No(s). _____

13. ☐ Other: _____.

/Salad Abdullahi/
Primary Examiner, Art Unit 2157

Continuation of 11, does NOT place the application in condition for allowance because: Applicant alleges "Dobbins does not teach or suggest, alone or in combination with Schneider, a plurality of policies for self-subscribing to and self-unsubscribing from a group. Rather, Dobbins describes allowing a user to select content packages and update personal information and preferences. The Applicants do not agree that Dobbins description of allowing a user to select content packages in any way teaches or suggests policies for self-subscribing to and self-unsubscribing from a group as recited in the pending claims. However, assuming for the sake of argument such a reading of Dobbins, neither Schneider no Dobbins, alone or in combination, teach or suggest updating an attribute of an identity profile for the group based on such a policy.

Examiner respectfully disagrees because Dobbins discloses a group policy management policy which enables subscribers to self-subscribe to and self-unsubscribe from a group through the web portal which provides self-service mechanisms for the subscribers. Dobbins's system facilitates managing group membership depending on the subscriber's characteristics, or preferences of a specific content resources,. For example the portal is personalized to the preferences of the subscriber. The preferences are recorded in DOE 80 along with the policy configurations for the subscriber. The portal is an accurate reflection of the policies that are used by switch 20. Conversely, when the subscriber alters the subscriber preferences via the portal, the switch policies are also altered. Furthermore, Subscriber self-service is provided to allow a subscriber to change, on the subscriber's own, the services to which the subscriber can gain access. Subscriber self-service is accomplished by providing a Web page that is customized for a subscriber to indicate the services to which the subscriber can gain access. The Web page, which is organized to show the services to which the subscriber has already subscribed, and the services to which the subscriber can optionally subscribe, is created dynamically based on the information in the subscriber's profile.

In Dobbins subscribers are bound to Service Bundles. Subscribers can also be logically grouped into Subscriber Groups, which can also be bound to one or more Service Bundles. Any subscriber that resides within a Subscriber Group automatically gets access to the Service Bundles from that Subscriber Group, which significantly reduces the amount of work required by a Network Administrator. For example, if a Subscriber Group contains several thousand subscribers, the Administrator applies Service Bundles to only one location, rather than executing several thousand individual operations. Thus, Dobbins teaches defining a policy for self-subscribing to or self-unsubscribing from a service group [0102]

Applicant further alleges "Liu also does not teach or suggest, alone or in combination with the other references, updating an attribute of an identity profile for the group, i.e., based on application of the policy for self-subscription and/or self-un-subscription. Rather, Liu describes updating a profile for a user to indicate the group memberships of a user for tracking purposes, not updating an attribute of an identity profile of the actual group based on application of the policy for self-subscription and/or self-un-subscription"

Examiner respectfully disagrees, because Lui discloses an internet user group system for managing user groups, wherein adding said first entity to said first group as a static member comprises updating an attribute of an identity profile for the first group to include the first entity (see col. 36, lines 45 to col. 37, line 10)..